

Lessons Learned

Part II

In last spring's edition of the Carillon, I offered some thoughts on lessons of support and strength that I believe time on retreat at Ring Lake Ranch can teach us in times of struggle. I want to return to that general theme of lessons learned, but, some of you may be relieved to hear, without the political tinge. I want to return to that theme because witnessing the total eclipse over the Ranch on August 21st – aside from being one of the most deeply moving experiences of my life – was a near-perfect encapsulation of so much of what Ring Lake Ranch offers us.

To be honest, I was not especially excited about the total eclipse, even that morning as the moon began to cross the sun's path. But as the tem-



perature began to drop, the quality of the light and the scenery around the group gathered above Top Cabin began to change, and the eclipse finally reached totality, it was as if something was unveiled.

Sunlight is, after all, a basic and ever-present element of our daily lives, but behind this seemingly common thing turned out to be the sun's corona: wisps of gorgeous silvery-white light streaming from

the edges of the sun, impossible to see under normal circumstances. Venus and some bright stars became visible for those precious few moments and a blue-orange sunset appeared all the way around us on the horizon. Aside from the gasps of those of us gathered to watch, the process was entirely silent. And then, after just over two minutes, the moon moved on and everything returned to normal. It was as if a curtain had been drawn back, revealing astounding beauty and wonder and peace behind the most basic, mundane element of our lives. I hope this revelatory experience is what Ring Lake Ranch offers us all – a brief interlude to step behind our lives, whatever our joys or struggles of the day might be,

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Gifts to Fill the Gap

Most of you in the Ring Lake Ranch community know that we are in the midst of a capital campaign, the *50/50 Campaign: Preserve the Experience*, and indeed, many people have given generously to the campaign already. We appreciate that generosity and all of our guests have begun to benefit from the campaign by way of the new cabin furniture, the ongoing refurbishing of the cabins themselves, and the like.

As many donors have made long-term commitments to the campaign, however, we find ourselves in the bind of seeing annual donations decline over the last year or so. This is not surprising, but the reality is that we still have financial needs to meet each year, including program and facility expenses, as well as the scholarship needs of guests.

We certainly hope that everyone who can pledge to the campaign will do so, but even if you cannot do that, please consider making a one-time gift this year to help meet our immediate needs. Particularly if you haven't given before now, or haven't made a financial contribution in a while, I hope you will reflect on your experience at Ring Lake Ranch and consider joining the community in making sure that experience is available for future guests.

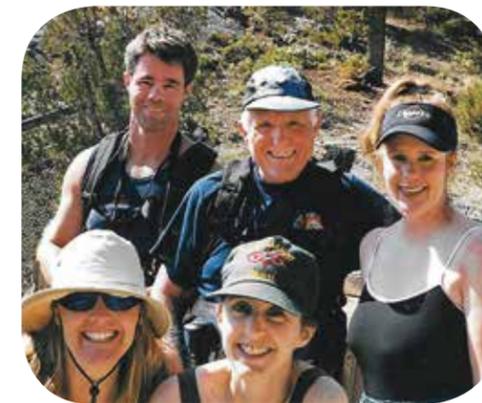
In Memoriam:

Ed Everding, February 2nd, 1934 – June 29th, 2017

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of former RLR Board member Ed Everding on June 29th. Ed was Professor of Christian Education at Iliff School of Theology from 1967 until his retirement in 1999 and active in United Methodist Church leadership and education throughout his career. Ed was first invited to lead a session at the Ranch by Maggie Kahin in 1976. He shared this experience with his

four children, and cherished the spiritual connection the landscape and friendly people inspired. He enjoyed staying in cabin 5 and laying on the giant boulder outside the cabin to watch shooting stars and satellites with his children. His son, Henry, would return to become a junior staffer, and it became a tradition for them

to drive up to the Ranch together at the beginning of every summer and back at the end. Ed fell in love with Ring Lake Ranch, and he loved to share the experience with family whenever he could throughout the decades. He treasured every detail—the staff, the food, the communal washing up in the kitchen, the horses, the mountains, the storms, porch-sitting, the square dances in Dubois. It became a place to commune with nature and, after Henry died tragically in 2005, to connect with his son. Ring Lake Ranch was a magical, magnetic, powerful attraction for Ed for over 35 years. He came nearly every summer until he couldn't anymore. The Everding family has graciously requested that memorial gifts be given to the Ranch's Henry Everding Equine Fund.



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and to understand that there is indeed beauty and wonder and love behind all of it, at every moment.

I found an article about the total eclipse later in the day, "A Total Solar Eclipse Feels Really, Really Weird" by Bob Berman, that pointed out that the ancient Babylonians understood and could predict eclipses around the world because they recorded the phenomenon in

cycles that spanned more than one person's lifetime; their knowledge depended on communication and connection across time, not on just a single observer. Likewise, everyone at the Ranch gathered at the end of the day and throughout the week and talked with wonder and awe about what we had all seen. Our shared perspectives deepened the experience for all of us. Here, too, I am reminded of the sacred time of

meals at table together, hikes, and rides at the Ranch, where we make new connections and find friends and support that we carry home with us. The Ranch experience is almost always one of community and connection, and much better for it.

Finally, I have to offer a semi-apology. My reflections are dependent on having been physically present there during the

total eclipse. The article by Bob Berman points out that there is no way to replicate it. Partial eclipses don't produce the same quality of light, let alone make the corona visible. Single photographic images aren't capable of recording the depth of contrast as the light changes on the landscape and the varying quality of light in the inner and outer corona. So, as the saying goes, "you had to have been there" and I apologize for talking about something that many of you didn't experience this summer. But, I also say it with a note of encouragement, thinking of both the eclipse and time at Ring Lake Ranch: "You have to be there!" There is indeed no substitute for the blessings of real places and people and lives around us, wherever we are.

•Andy Blackmun, Director

The Ring Lake Ranch Carillon

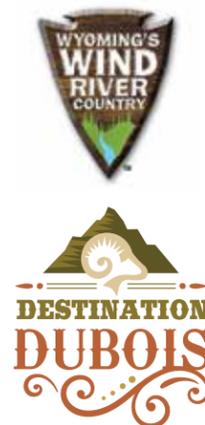
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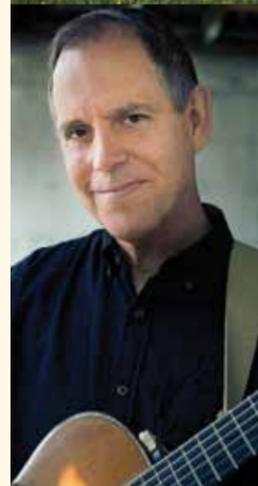
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Ring Lake Ranch 2018 Schedule of Programs



May 27 - June 2 Volunteer Week

Every year, the Ranch relies on volunteers, both individuals and groups, to clean, do major repair and upkeep projects, open the kitchen, and anything else needed to prepare for guests. Please consider joining us for a week of work, fun, and fellowship!

We also have a few volunteer spaces open during our seminar weeks. Contact Andy Blackmun at andy@ringlake.org if you are interested in volunteering.



Scholarships Available

Scholarship assistance is available, particularly for first-time guests to Ring Lake Ranch. Please contact Andy Blackmun at andy@ringlake.org for more information or to request our simple scholarship application.

July 1 - July 7 David Wilcox Musical Medicine: Songs That Tell a Better Story

Songs can be good medicine when the right song is sung for the right person at the right time. Our retreat with David will combine his songs with time for conversation, where anyone who wishes can speak to the state of their heart and soul and mind. David will then select and/or spontaneously craft songs that will serve the conversation and the people gathered. Sometimes the songs are funny, but there can also be heart-opening clarity and powerful healing from a song that speaks directly to your situation while also showing it in a surprising and different light. Singer/songwriter David Wilcox has released 18 albums over his thirty-year career. Rolling Stone said that his "ongoing musical journey is compelling and richly deserving of a listen" and Performing Songwriter commented that his "music is a personal compass for finding his way home."

July 15 - 21 Marianne Borg Days of Awe and Wonder Days of Awe and Wonder

How to be a Christian in the 21st Century is a new collection of writings by the late Marcus Borg. Using Marcus' book we will review some of his foundational affirmations and understandings that enabled so many of us to see the person of Jesus anew and discern what is the heart of Christianity. In addition to reviewing Marcus' work, we will reflect on our understandings of Christianity and its place in this complex, questioning and religiously pluralistic world. We will also use the work of a variety of poets and attend to their "eloquent listening" in hopes of helping us see again and hear afresh the hope that calls to us through days of fear and trembling to days of awe and wonder. Marianne Borg is the widow of Marcus Borg. She is a retired Episcopal priest and Founding Chair of the Marcus J. Borg Foundation.



July 29 - Aug 11 Diana Butler Bass and Brian McLaren Habits of the Heart: Gratitude and Love

Our sacred texts make clear that gratitude and love are at the core of a well-lived life. But while we teach nearly everyone reading, writing, and arithmetic, we assume people will learn these two primary spiritual practices on their own, by accident. Diana Butler Bass and Brian McLaren will guide you in the how-to's of making gratitude and love as natural as breathing and walking. Each evening's presentation will include practices you can incorporate during the next day's activities at the Ranch, so you can return home with new habits of the heart. Diana Butler Bass is an author, speaker, and independent scholar specializing in American religion and culture. Her books include the bestselling *Grounded and Christianity After Religion*. Brian D. McLaren is an author, speaker, activist, and networker among innovative Christian leaders. His dozen-plus books include *Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road?* and *The Great Spiritual Migration*. *Session is full; wait list only, please.*



July 22 - 28 The Wind River Reservation Contemporary Perspectives on Archaeology and Reservation Life

We will explore a variety of topics related to the history and current cultural life on the Wind River Reservation. Career BLM archaeologist Craig Bromley will present how archaeological understandings of the last three decades have changed about the people who inhabited this region over the last 12,000 years. Gina Clingerman, also a BLM Archaeologist, will explore the history of a Fur Trade-era spear point that she discovered in 2015, tracing it from its manufacture in Sheffield, England to its arrival in the University of Wyoming's Archaeological Repository. Jordan Dresser will discuss his role in the film "What Was Ours," a documentary of Arapaho and Shoshone tribal members who travel to the Field Museum in Chicago and begin questioning who owns the material culture of the Wind River Indian Reservation, as well as his work with the Northern Arapaho Experience Cultural Room. Jason Baldes, a member of the Eastern Shoshone tribe, will present the efforts to restore buffalo to the Wind River Indian Reservation. We also hope to have an opportunity to visit the buffalo restoration site on the reservation. *Session is full; wait list only, please.*

Aug 12 - Aug 18 Rubi Lal What Choice Do I Have? Muslim Women in Beleaguered Worlds

Images of oppressed muslim women are common in the media: Malala Yusufzai nearly killed by the Taliban for wanting to read and write, Parda-clad Saudi women suffering under a patriarchal regime, and others subjected to the brutal violence of honor killings. While the question of violence against women and its discussion in the media is vital, perhaps something has gone missing altogether in the pictures we get. Muslim women negotiate their lives powerfully and, even under oppressive regimes, they employ magical forms of creativity that lie at the heart of being able to live. What does the life of someone like Malala Yusufzai tell us? What about Prophet Muhammad's favorite wife Aisha? And Nur Jahan, the Mughal Empress of India who envisioned the exquisite Taj Mahal? Through texts, films, and art, we will examine the life stories of Muslim women, their own notions of gender, sexuality, desire, leadership, and being in the modern world. Rubi Lal is Professor of South Asian Studies at Emory University. Her fields of study include feminist history and theory, and the question of archive as it relates to writing about Islamic societies in the precolonial and colonial world.

August 19 - 25 Ellen Davis and Abdullah Antelpi The Things that Make for Peace: The Bible and The Qur'an in Conversation

The increase of religiously motivated violence is a compelling reason for Christians and Muslims to develop a deeper theological understanding of neighboring religious communities and "the things that make for peace" (Luke 19:42). This seminar will explore core values of Islam and Christianity, highlighting points of similarity and difference. We will give special attention to the bases in both the Bible and the Qur'an for interfaith cooperation and respect, as well as to contemporary writings and theological statements. We will consider our own faith practices and the challenges and opportunities of living in a pluralistic culture, as well as how to begin interfaith conversation in local communities. Ellen F. Davis is Amos Ragan Kearns Distinguished Professor of Bible and Practical Theology at Duke University Divinity School. Her research focuses on how biblical interpretation bears on faith communities and their responses to urgent public issues. Abdullah Antelpi is Chief Representative for Muslim Affairs at Duke University. A native of Turkey, Imam Antelpi worked on a variety of faith-based humanitarian and relief projects in Myanmar and Malaysia from 1996 to 2004 and served as Duke University's first Muslim chaplain.



Aug. 26 - Sept 1 Barbara Rossing The Tree of Life

The tree of life is a central image in many religions. The Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden in Hebrew scriptures, the Bodhi Tree at the axis of the world in Buddhist cosmology, the Iroquois tree whose roots hold together the whole world. The Tree of Life also appears in science as a model for understanding biological connection and diversity. We will explore how the biological and religious trees of life can serve us theologically, how they can help envision our future, and strengthen our hope for lasting, faithful life on earth, illuminated by insights from the natural sciences, environmental studies, social sciences, literature, and art. Barbara R. Rossing is professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. She served as pastor of a congregation in Minnesota, Director for Global Mission Interpretation for the American Lutheran Church, pastor at Holden Village Retreat Center, Chelan, Wash., and chaplain at Harvard University Divinity School. Her publications include *The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation*.

Sept 2 - Sept 8 Luther Smith Conflict Transformation: Being Fully Present, Authentic, and Creatively Engaged

Our dreams for nurturing relationships, creative work, and experiencing beloved community are often shattered by situations of conflict. Although "conflict" is blamed for such broken outcomes, more fundamental matters are the real culprits. Avoiding conflict, rushing to resolution, political maneuvering, character assassination, and remaining anxious and silent are just some of the dysfunctional behaviors in disputes. With skills to befriend conflict, even at times to initiate it, we can create transformational opportunities that enact our dreams. Through presentations, discussions, video, and role-play, we will engage concepts and processes that enable us to live faithfully in conflict. Luther Smith is Professor Emeritus of Church and Community at the Candler School of Theology of Emory University. He speaks and writes extensively on Howard Thurman's legacy, spirituality, church practices, and social transformation. Throughout his career Luther has been active with issues of reconciliation, interfaith collaboration, child advocacy, poverty, and people with intellectual disabilities.

2018 Registration



Thanks to our 2017 RLR Volunteers

As with every year, the volunteers at Ring Lake Ranch helped our wonderful 2017 season turn out even better. We started off with a full crew for Volunteer Week, which was great, because our main project for the week was the exchange of the old cabin furniture for new writing desks, chairs, dressers, lamps, and nightstands. Ryan Collins, Mike McKee, Ken Blumer, Sara Myers and David Petersen, Dwight Haberman, Jeff and Will Reed, Lynn Williamson and Dan Hauck, Becky and Harold Walker, David Henderson, Jim and Bev Young, Graham Opie, and Ted and Renette Laase all pitched in to gather the old furniture (most of which was donated to Eagle's Hope Housing Program in Riverton) and stock each cabin with the new items. The Volunteer Week crew also did the usual rounds of prepping and cleaning cabins, repairing screens and other cabin items, clearing trails, and getting the horses and tack ready for summer rides. Volunteers also provided all sorts of support throughout the season. David

Turpin and Amelia Carrell, Elfe Rosin, Maria Battista and Steve Weiman, Steven Koehn, Dan Hauck, Ken Iha, Lyn Chan, Becky Brown, Julie Wakelee Lynch, Katy Johnston and Suzanne Seaton, Lesley and Glen Stugelmayer, Ryan and Kari Collins, Gretchen Williams, Dorian McGlannon, Alice and Fred Nicol, Carl Koch and Joyce Heil, Sean Roche, Amy Mears, and Jean and Bill Wolfe all happily gave their time and energy to the dining hall, the kitchen, maintenance projects, and the hiking and riding programs. Special thanks as well to RLR Board members Julie Mavity Maddalena, Suzanne Seaton, and Alice Nicol for talking with guests about the capital campaign throughout the summer. Volunteers are vital to continuing the Ranch experience for everyone. Please consider joining us, either during our 2018 Volunteer Week, May 27th – June 2nd, or during one of our sessions. Contact Andy Blackmun at andy@ringlake.org or call him at 888-458-5253 to sign up or ask any questions.

Staff Assistants

The Ranch also welcomed the help of several dedicated young people as staff assistants during the 2017 season. Thanks very much to Jacob Winslea, Taylor Stugelmayer, Zoe Kinnard, Beau Bryant, Olivia Pratt, Elizabeth Blackmun, and Christian Blackmun for all of their hard work around the Ranch.

We invite young people between the ages of 13 and 18 who have been to RLR at least once to apply to be staff assistants for our 2018 season. We ask staff assistants to work between 20 and 30 hours per week. In return, staff assistants receive room, board and a small stipend during their stay. Depending on rooming arrangements, staff assistants usually stay for one or two weeks; more weeks may be available at the discretion of the Director. The work can vary each day: sometimes we need help around the kitchen, sometimes down at the corral, sometimes covering the back of a group on a hike. Teenagers interested in working as staff assistants should contact Andy Blackmun at andy@ringlake.org or 888-458-5253.

2018 RATES

All rates are per person and based on double/multiple occupancy.

Includes lodging • meals • seminars • horseback riding • guided hiking • boating.

No charge for children 12 & under.

Scholarships are available:

Contact Andy Blackmun at andy@ringlake.org or 888-458-5253 toll free

ADULT FEES FOR 6 DAY SESSIONS

Basic cabin with shared bath.....	\$935
Basic lodging with private bath	\$1063
Large Family cabin with private bath.....	\$1110

YOUTH FEES FOR 6 DAY SESSIONS

Youth (ages 13 – 17)	\$708
Child (ages 12 and under).....	no charge

ADULT FEES FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE SESSIONS

Basic lodging with shared bath	\$ 1632
Basic lodging with private bath	\$ 1860
Large Family cabin with private bath.....	\$ 1932

YOUTH FEES FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE SESSIONS

Youth (ages 13 – 17)	\$ 1221
Child (ages 12 and under).....	no charge

All fees exclude sales & lodging taxes. Contact Amanda at amanda@ringlake.org or 307-455-2663 to inquire about daily and off-season rates. To guarantee a private room, contact Amanda about additional fee & availability.

Receive a 10% discount on your session fees by bringing someone new to the Ranch with you.

Please indicate on your registration form who the new guest is. When they register, we'll record the discount. Thank you for spreading the word about Ring Lake Ranch.

Deposit:

To hold your reservations, we request a deposit of \$260/adult and \$150/youth for 6 day sessions or \$450/adult and \$250/youth for two sessions. The deposit is refundable (less a 20% handling charge) up to 60 days in advance of the session for which you have registered. After that time, the deposit is refundable (less 20%) only if we can rebook your space in the session.

No. of Registrants:

_____ Adults @ rate	\$_____
_____ Youth (13-17)	\$_____
_____ Children(12 & under)	no charge

TOTAL (without taxes) \$_____

Deposit Amount \$_____

Session

Dates _____

Registrant Name(s) _____

Names & ages of children (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ Work Phone () _____

Cell () _____ Email _____

Accommodation preference:

- Basic/shared bath Basic/private bath
 Large Family/private bath Cabin #

Roommate preference (registering separately)

- King Bed? Twin Beds?

Is walking over steep or rough terrain difficult for you?

- Yes No

Any other physical limitations? _____

Dietary restrictions/food allergies: _____

Will you need transportation from the airport?

(see spring Carillon or website for charges)

- No Yes Jackson/Riverton

How did you hear about Ring Lake Ranch?

Signature _____

Date _____

We accept Visa, Mastercard and Discover.

Pay by cash or your personal check and receive a 5% discount in fees. For security purposes, please do not include your credit card number on this form. Please use the online store at www.ringlake.org/store to pay deposits and fees.

Return form to:

Ring Lake Ranch	(888) 458-5253 toll free
P.O. Box 806	(307) 455-2663
Dubois, WY 82513	amanda@ringlake.org
	www.ringlake.org



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Come join us at Ring Lake Ranch for “renewal in sacred wilderness.”



*“The world is
full of magic things,
patiently waiting for
our senses to grow
sharper.”*

W.B. Yeats

For more information about our programs and the Ranch community, please visit our website: www.ringlake.org